



## Unjust waters: Climate change, flooding and the urban poor in Africa

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### Abstract:

Many of the urban poor in Africa face growing problems of severe flooding. Increased storm frequency and intensity related to climate change are exacerbated by such local factors as the growing occupation of floodplains, increased runoff from hard surfaces, inadequate waste management and silted-up drainage. One can distinguish four types of flooding in urban areas: localized flooding due to inadequate drainage; flooding from small streams within the built-up area; flooding from major rivers; and coastal flooding. ActionAid undertook participatory vulnerability analysis in five African cities, to explore local people's perceptions of why floods occur, how they adjust to them, who is responsible for reducing the flood risk and what action the community itself can take. While local people adapt to floods, recognition of local, national and international governments' and organizations' responsibility to act to alleviate flooding and its causes, especially the consequences of climate change, is urgently needed.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0956247808089156>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

#### Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

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**Extreme Weather Event:** Flooding

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater, Ocean/Coastal, Urban

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Africa

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury

**Intervention:** 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Women

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Resilience:** 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

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Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content